



PLACER COUNTY  
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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

## PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Monday, February 26, 2001 2 p.m.  
Date/Time of Occurrence Tuesday, February 27, 2001 1 p.m.  
Nature of Call Placer County Law Enforcement Agencies Acquire  
Latest Non-lethal Compliance Tool  
Location of Call Sheriff's Headquarters, Auburn

Released by Lt. Rick Armstrong, (530) 889-7816

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

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The latest law enforcement tool for resolving violent situations in a non-lethal manner is being distributed Tuesday to law enforcement agencies in Placer County.

A demonstration of the PepperBall System will be held for the press tomorrow, 02/27/01, at 1 p.m. at the Placer County Sheriff's Department, 11500 A Avenue, in Auburn. The Sheriff's Department purchased the non-lethal systems with funding from a State Office of Criminal Justice Planning grant that targets career criminals. Sheriff Bonner dedicated a portion of the money to purchase the devices for each police department in Placer County and every Sheriff's supervisor's vehicle.

"The PepperBall System is an option to lethal force and it is probably one of the most effective systems out there," Bonner said. "They can be used at a safe distance from someone who is threatening violence to themselves or others. It's a new tool that we can use in appropriate emergencies."

PepperBall launchers fire a projectile similar to a paintball, only they contain a powdered form of pepper spray. The powder envelops a suspect's eyes and breathing passages, providing greater opportunity for quick resolution, with no permanent injury to the suspect.

The recoilless launchers allow accurate targeting and provide increased officer safety during a variety of other situations, such as combative suspects, domestic violence and suicide-by-police. PepperBall systems have been used in the Placer County Jail for the past year with great success, Sheriff Bonner added.

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